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OBEY UPDATED ON EXPANDED SERVICES AT BRIDGE CLINIC

WAUSAU, WI – Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Wausau today to receive an update at the Bridge Community Health Clinic. More than \$600,000 of federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding has helped the clinic to add six new employees, conference space, offices for patient education, and to replace outdated dental equipment. In addition, the clinic will contract with North Central Health Care for more mental health therapist services. The funding was provided through legislation produced by the Appropriations Committee which Obey chairs.

“I’m glad to see how the clinic is using the federal Recovery Act funds to offer more services to local residents and update their facilities and dental equipment,” said Obey. “Like the folks who work at the Bridge Community Health Clinic, I believe that health care is a right that everyone deserves and I’m glad we were able to secure these funds to help the clinic serve more people.”

The Bridge Community Health Clinic is a Federally Qualified Health Center that has been serving the community since 1995. The clinic sees more than 6,000 patients annually. The federal funds that Congressman Obey secured have allowed the clinic to consider future expansion for available dental care in Wausau.

Noting that “we’re facing a ‘silent epidemic’ of oral disease in this country because of a lack of available dental care, especially in rural areas and for the most vulnerable among us,” Obey said he is especially pleased that the clinic is able to expand and upgrade its dental health program. “Lack of dental care is no small problem. Children have died because of infections brought on by the absence of dental care,” he added.

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